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if they would consider more seriously the ethical quality of their conduct when they aid and abet half-fledged thinkers in producing books for half-fledged readers.

ALBION W. SMALL.

Poverty: A Study of Town Life. By B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE.
London: Macmillan & Co., 1901. Pp. 437. \$3.50.

THIS monograph shows the results of an investigation of the numbers, occupation, housing, budgets, and other social conditions of the working people of York, England. Two classes of the poor are distinguished: those who live in "primary" poverty, whose total earnings are insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency; and those who are in "secondary" poverty, whose total earnings would have been sufficient to meet the minimum requirements if part were not wasted.

The standard of measurement included the necessary expenditure—21s. 8d.—for food, rent, and all else, for a family of father, mother, and three children. Those found to be in primary poverty are almost exactly 10 per cent. of the total population of the city, while all in both grades amounted to 27.84 per cent. These figures agree substantially with those of Charles Booth in London, 30.7 per cent., so that they confirm each other.

The effects of this poverty are carefully analyzed, with a high degree of precision. Of the entire population 6.4 per cent. are compelled to live in overcrowded habitations, and the food used falls below the minimum standard so far that health is impaired and industrial efficiency is reduced.

That, under such conditions, the really human life can develop cannot be expected. The cultural demands are not met, and character is degraded. The standards and measurements, after we pass beyond physiological and economic requirements, are not so accurately given; but it is surprising and encouraging to note the success of the statistical method seen in this region which is so often abandoned to idle guesses, futile speculations, and contradictory assertions.

Into the problems of amelioration the author does not venture very far, although he supplies very interesting information about the activities of schools, churches, trade unions, co-operative and friendly societies, insurance companies, and poor relief.

Two points are very clear in regard to insurance of workingmen, and they are of vital importance in America as in England: insurance

by private companies is safe, but inadequate and costly — \$41.60 per \$1,000 for life insurance, and only \$50 on the average can be carried ; while co-operative societies offer cheaper rates, but are unreliable and often disappointing. Yet the author does not mention the German system of government insurance, which is both cheap and safe, although it does not yet provide for widows and orphans.

In this volume the student of practical sociology has an advanced model of investigation of conditions and a revelation which must make its appeal to the conscience of the civilized world. The way is still open for students to analyze the facts of culture life and work out a more accurate method of measuring conditions and tendencies, for which this volume offers only suggestive hints. Altogether we have here a strong, honest, and instructive study, of great value to our own age and a monument for future historians.

C. R. HENDERSON.

The Care of Destitute, Neglected, and Delinquent Children. By HOMER FOLKS. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1902. Pp. 251. \$1.

THE basis of adequate treatment of any social task is the history of past experience in all its aspects. The present volume is one of a series and must be considered in the light of the statement by the editor of the series on "American Philanthropy of the Nineteenth Century."

These chapters deal only with "children who have been removed from their earlier environment and from parental control, and the direction of those lives and the burden of whose support has been directly assumed or provided for by public authorities or private charity." Mr. Folks treats of the conditions prevalent at the opening of the nineteenth century; public and private care down to 1875; removal of children from almshouses; the state school and placing-out system; the county children's home system; public support in private institutions; boarding out and placing out; laws and societies for the rescue of neglected children; private charities for destitute and neglected children, 1875-1900; delinquent children; present tendencies.

The bibliography is select, annotated, and reliable. The judgments of the author are modestly and suggestively stated, rather as "working hypotheses" to be tested by further trial than as final dogmas; but they may be safely taken as the opinions of one of the first authorities in this field.